



GOMSF Church Music Federation Ministry
www.sfchurchmusic.org sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org



MINUTES
Plenary Information and
Planning Meeting

Saturday, August 7, 2021, 1:00-
3:00 p.m. PDST

*Saint Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA and on-line
via Zoom*

I. Welcome and Opening Prayer

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos opened the meeting with a prayer followed by encouraging and inspiring remarks about the direction of the Ministry and the hard work of its members.

II. Ministry Overview:

Kay Harkins, Ministry Chair, thanked Eve Tibbs, Fr. Stephen Tsihchlis, the staff of St. Paul's, and the volunteers from the St. Paul's choir for their gracious help and hospitality. She reviewed the accomplishments of the ministry over the course of the pandemic, highlighting the significant contribution of Christopher Hondros and the Church Music Development Team in adding to the growing library of instructional videos on the ministry's YouTube channel and the awarding of 8 church music scholarships. She also noted that our ministry was well represented in National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians Annual Meeting at the end of August. Athena Anastos headed a committee that has produced a parish music directors' handbook based on Tikey Zes' previous work. She, Kay, Liz, Vasiliki, and Tikey will be our delegates to the Annual Meeting at the end of August. Tikey and Father Michael will be featured as participants in a Round Table discussion of Orthodox music composition.

III. Approval of May 16, 2020 Minutes.
Kay called for approval of the minutes, which were unanimously approved without discussion or correction.

IV. Financial and Stewardship Overview:

Sarah Gyurkovitz, Ways and Means Team Leader, gave an overview of stewardship. 36 people and 2 parishes supported the Ministry during 2020-2021. Income was \$7,450.41 and expenses were \$11,959.83. \$7,000 was spent on youth music. The ministry has assets of \$30,000 in savings and \$22,398 in the checking accounts at Chase Bank. She clarified how the funds earmarked for youth initiatives is included in the budget in response to a question by Meg Jakovas

V. Overview of ministry, **“Returning Strong in Faith, Skill, and Purpose”**

Kay Harkins reviewed the plan for the upcoming liturgical year (see below), highlighting the Liturgics Course being offered at no cost to Metropolis parish music leaders beginning on Wednesday, September 29, through the St. John Koukouzelis Institute of Liturgical Arts and the One-Day Symposium planned for December 4 at Holy Trinity Portland. She noted that \$4000 of Desby music scholarships would again be offered in 2021, and assured us regarding the readiness of the Church Music Development Team to resume Church Music Institutes and workshops at local parishes as soon as health and safety protocols permit. A full conference in October 2022 in Scottsdale Arizona is also being planned. Exact dates will be announced.

VI. Report of Attendance and Voting Status and Procedures:

Meg Jakovas, Records and Archives Team Leader reported that 12 Parishes were represented at the meeting including 6 leadership team members and 11 church musicians for a total of 17 people in attendance. Three registered participants did not attend. 6 persons attended in person with the rest participating online.

VII. Presentation of Budget with Question and Answer Period:

Sara Gyurkovitz, Ways and Means Team Leader, presented the two-year budget (September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2023) of \$75,000. This budget is balanced and similar to one for our previous budget term. Athena Anastos clarified the difference between the conference scholarship for a parish hosted conference and the scholarship funds allocated for other courses and workshops. Liz Levy gave further information about the evolution of the Frank and Xenia Desby Memorial Church Music Scholarship from its inception as a scholarship exclusively for organists to its present scope to include all church musicians.

VIII. Approval of Budget

Meg Jakovas moved to accept the budget as presented; Tina Athans seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with no discussion.

IX. Announcements, Gratitude, Comments and Questions:

Kay Harkins once again thanked all those from St. Paul who provided for our many needs of the day. She particularly thanked her leadership circle for their extraordinary work of collaboration on the many projects of the ministry. She gave special appreciation to those who attended this hybrid meeting.

Christopher Hondros expressed how inspired and encouraged he was by His Eminence's remarks.

Terry Kastanis asked again about the exact dates for the October 2022 conference. We clarified again that the actual dates are still in the planning stages with the Assumption community.

Father Michael Pallad expressed his appreciation of the ministry's resources and events and remarked about the way the pandemic created new opportunities for outreach and possibilities for growth.

Eva Cannelos asked about the possibility of having recordings of parts from Fank Desby's music for rehearsal purposes. Sarah Gyurkovitz explained that copyright law does not allow the ministry to distribute Desby's music in this way without the express consent of his family, which may be difficult to obtain.

Elaine Arapostathis expressed interested in music education videos for major feast day hymns. Christopher Hondros directed her to the YouTube channel on the ministry website (sfchurchmusic.org) that includes instructional videos for 36 hymns and 4 music literacy videos.X. Adjournment

Father Michael Pallad prayed Psalm 137 as our benediction, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:36, with a few participants remaining to chat on Zoom.

2019 – 2023 Leadership Circle: Kay Harkins, Ministry Chair; Christopher Hondros, Church Music Development Team Leader; Elizabeth Levy and Athena Anastos, Events Team Leaders; Vasiliki Kyrakakis, Communications Team Leader; Sarah Gyurkovitz, Ways and Means Team Leader; Margarita Jakovas, Records and Archives Team Leader; Tikey Zes, Senior Music Minister; Father Michael Pallad, Spiritual Advisor



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Master Plan for Liturgical Year September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022

Returning Strong in Faith, Skill, and Purpose: Reviving and Revitalizing Active Parish Church Music Ministries

Faith:

In considering how our ministry might begin to meet the diverse needs of Metropolis parishes as church musicians incrementally return to their soleas and lofts, the ministry leadership believes it is important to take a faith-first approach in our plan, grounding our parish music leaders, and those aspiring to lead, through a deep understanding of Liturgy. If we do not build upon a working understanding of the theology and order the Divine Liturgy, Orthros, and Vespers, we cannot expect to fulfill the will of God in sustained and meaningful ways. We must begin first with the education and support our Parish Music Leaders (adult and youth choir directors, Protopsaltis, and those aspiring to those roles), beginning with a firm foundation in liturgics to which we then add the enrichment of their musical skills. Only in this way may they effectively lead, serve, and inspire the church musicians in their care to confidently participate in the music of the faith.

- Provide scholarships for a specifically designed Liturgics course offered to all Metropolis Parish Music Leaders from the Koukouzelis Institute of Liturgical Arts www.koukouzelis.net
- Encourage all church musicians to enroll in the standard Liturgics course of the Koukouzelis Institute when it begins again in the fall of 2021.

Skill:

- Presentation of a special in person and live-streamed Special Workshop and Master Class by renowned Orthodox composer and director Benedict Sheehan. All day Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Portland, Oregon.

<https://www.benedictsheehanmusic.com/> <https://www.benedictsheehanmusic.com/workshops>

- Registration scholarships will be provided for all Metropolis Parish Music Leaders
- Registration will be open to all interested church musicians in the Metropolis and Archdiocese as well as those interested from other Orthodox jurisdictions
- The awarding of 8 scholarships of up to \$500 each to church musicians to study with private instructors or at approved Orthodox schools and institutes.
- Continued building of instructional videos on our ministry's YouTube Channel and expanding of a resource library through our website.
- Completion of the recording of hymns in conjunction with the First Mode Liturgy hymnal designed for youth and congregational singing.

Purpose (bringing together Faith and Skill):

- As soon as regional restrictions permit, the ministry will begin assisting parishes in planning and scheduling local in-person and/or hybrid one or two-day workshops and Church Music Institutes to meet the needs of the parish. (Parishes may opt to open these workshops to church musicians of other parishes or jurisdictions.) Ideally, our goal is to provide at least one event in each of the Metropolis Vicarates.
- Planning and preparation for an All-Metropolis Annual Conference in the fall of 2022 at Assumption, Scottsdale, AZ.

Please feel free to contact Ministry Chair, Kay Harkins, with any questions at sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org

